



Fire Department

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**

With some of the coldest weather of the season here, the Milwaukee Fire Department would like to help prevent any carbon monoxide (CO) poisonings. In 2006 the department responded to 585 carbon monoxide runs.

According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 480 people die every year by accidental carbon monoxide poisoning and over 15,200 are taken to the hospital. CO is a colorless, tasteless gas that is produced by the burning of a fossil fuel. With winter here and most homes being heated by natural gas, the danger of CO poisoning is present.

#### **There are a number of actions that can be taken to prevent possible poisonings.**

- ◆ *In the Home*
  - Use a UL rated carbon monoxide detector
  - Change the battery yearly on all CO and smoke detectors
  - If the alarm sounds, call 911, and get everyone out of the house
  - If a number of people suddenly become ILL, call 911, and get out of the house
- ◆ *Furnaces*
  - Have checked yearly by a qualified technician
  - Replace filter at least once a year
  - Keep chimneys clean
- ◆ *Grills*
  - Do not use for heating home
  - Use extreme caution if used in garage
  - Place used coals in a metal outside container
- ◆ *Stoves*
  - Do not use for heating home
  - Keep clean
  - Replace if damaged
- ◆ *Gasoline-powered Equipment*
  - Never use in the home
  - Never store gasoline or gasoline-powered equipment inside the home
  - Do not use for permanent power supply

The Milwaukee Fire Department is committed to reducing fire loss and eliminating fire fatalities in our community.

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